

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

CLAIMS

1. ~~(Currently Amended)~~ A dDevice (1) for protection against overvoltages adapted to provide protection in common and differential modes, ~~and comprising:~~

_____ -at least one electrically isolating package (2) specifically adapted to receive at least one electrical binomial formed by a so-called phase - earth varistor (PT) with a phase terminal (p) and an earthing terminal (t), arranged between a first phase (L1) to be protected and the earth (T);₃ and,

_____ -a so-called phase - neutral varistor (PN) with a phase terminal (p) and a neutral terminal (n) arranged between said first phase (L1) to be protected and the neutral (N),

said phase - earth (PT) and phase - neutral (PN) varistors being installed one adjacent to the other within said package (2) so as to form an assembly binomial (3), ~~characterised in that~~ comprising the protection device (1) ~~includes~~ including an electrical insulation means (20) adapted to electrically isolate the earthing terminal (t) of the phase - earth (PT) varistor from the neutral terminal (n) of the phase - neutral (PN) varistor.

2. ~~(Currently Amended)~~ The dDevice ~~according to~~ eClaim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the electrical insulation means (20) are designed and sized to increase the isolation distance between said earthing terminal t and said neutral terminal n, such that the isolation distance is greater than the separation distance separating said earthing terminal t and neutral terminal n.

3. ~~(Currently Amended)~~ The dDevice ~~according to~~ eClaim 1, ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the electrical insulation means (20) are formed by an electrically isolating separation partition (21) inserted between the earthing terminal (t) and the neutral terminal (n) so as to assure electrical insulation between said earthing terminal (t) and said neutral terminal (n).

4. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaim 3, characterised in that wherein~~ the separation partition (21) is arranged inside the package (2) so as to separate the package into two housings (22, 23), each of them being capable of holding a varistor.

5. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to one of eClaims 1 to 4, characterised in that it includes further comprising~~ at least a fixed base (6), and in that each package (2) is provided with plugging-in / withdrawal means (7), formed from studs (8A, 8B, 9A, 9B) adapted to enable the removable electrical connection of said package (2) relative to said base (6).

6. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaim 5, characterised in that wherein~~ the package (2) provided with its plugging-in / withdrawal means (7) forms an interchangeable cartridge (11).

7. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaims 4 and 5, characterised in that wherein~~ the separation partition (21) extends outside the package (2) so as to separate the pair of studs (8A, 8B) associated with the phase – earth varistor (PT) from the pair of studs (9A, 9B) associated with the phase – neutral varistor (PN).

8. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaim 7, characterised in that wherein~~ the base (6) includes a central housing (60) specifically adapted to hold the outgoing end of the separation partition (21).

9. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to one of eClaims 1 to 8, characterised in that wherein said device~~ it is designed to protect a single-phase network, and in that ~~it said device~~ includes at least one package (2) provided with an assembly binomial (3) electrically connected to the phase (L1) to be protected.

10. ~~(Currently Amended) The dDevice according to one of eClaims 1 to 9, characterised in that wherein said device~~ it is designed to protect a three-phase network, and in that ~~it said device~~

includes at least three packages (2A, 2B, 2C) each provided with an assembly binomial (3) electrically connected to a phase (L1, L2, L3) to be protected.

11. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to one of eClaims 1 to 9, characterised in that wherein said device it is designed to protect a multi-phase network including a number N of phases, and in that it said device includes a number of packages (2) at least equal to the number N of phases, each package (2) being provided with an assembly binomial (3).

12. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaim 10 or 11, characterised in that wherein said device it includes isolating means (30) arranged between two consecutive assembly binomials (3) so as to electrically isolate them from each other.

13. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaim 12, characterised in that wherein the isolating means (30) are formed from a screen made of an electrically isolating material inserted between two consecutive assembly binomials (3).

14. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to one of eClaims 1 to 13, characterised in that wherein said device it also includes a so-called neutral - earth varistor (NT) arranged between the neutral (N) and the earth (T), said neutral - earth varistor (NT) being installed within an additional package (2S).

15. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to one of the previous claims Claim 1, characterised in that wherein the phase - earth varistor (PT), and the phase - neutral varistor (PN) in the same assembly binomial (3) have different operating voltages.

16. (Currently Amended) The dDevice according to of eClaim 15, characterised in that in wherein a particular assembly binomial (3), the phase - neutral varistor (PN) has an operating voltage less than the operating voltage of the phase - earth varistor (PT).

17. (New) The device of Claim 2, wherein the electrical insulation means are formed by an electrically isolating separation partition inserted between the earthing terminal (t) and the neutral terminal (n) so as to assure electrical insulation between said earthing terminal (t) and said neutral terminal (n).

18. (New) The device of Claim 5, wherein the separation partition extends outside the package so as to separate the pair of studs associated with the phase – earth varistor (PT) from the pair of studs associated with the phase – neutral varistor (PN).

19. (New) The device of Claim 11, wherein said device includes isolating means arranged between two consecutive assembly binomials so as to electrically isolate them from each other.